

PETITION

OF

CITIZENS OF THE PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES, LA.,

PRAYING

*The improvement of the navigation of the Red river.*

MAY 18, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:*

The petition of the undersigned, citizens of the parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, respectfully represents:

That the navigation of Red river is almost excluded from the Mississippi, by reason of a large sand-bar formed at the mouth of Red river. That there is great danger of Red river running into the Atchafalaya. That this suspension of the navigation of our river operates a vast detriment to the agricultural, commercial, and military interests of the Red river region.

Your petitioners suggest that there is a cheap remedy for these evils: that by reopening and clearing out the bayou Cut-off, the navigation of Red river may easily be restored to the Mississippi river. This bayou unites the Mississippi and Red river about fifteen miles above the mouth of the latter river, and is about three miles long, and was commonly navigated by barges until the introduction of steamboats on Red river. That this bayou has been closed for several years past, by individual interference, by a levee on the Mississippi; but, as this bayou has been navigable from time immemorial, no individual has a right to close a navigable stream in Louisiana.

Petitioners further suggest that the falls at Alexandria, Louisiana, may easily be rendered navigable, either by a canal in the soft rock, or by a wing dam or dams on the rock, joining the head of the dam to the river bank, and forming a canal of about one hundred feet wide between the dams, as per plan and map annexed.

Petitioners pray that the remains of the great raft in Red river above Shreveport may be removed, or a canal cut across the large bend of the river in which the raft has lately formed.

Wherefore petitioners pray that your honorable body would cause a reconnaissance and estimates to be made of these improvements, and would appropriate a reasonable sum of money to accomplish these works, and

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thereby save Red river from being entirely excluded from the Mississippi.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c.

NATCHITOCHES, LA., May 1, 1848.

Ragan

A. P. Staring

Thomas C. Brunt

T. P. Jones

F. Williams

T. J. Flanner

A. S. Grosvenor

L. L. Martine

Daniel Turner

Thomas Delby

W. D. Twomey

E. E. Eauger

Listan Prudhomme

[Illegible]

T. Rhodas

Wm. H. Caldwell

A. Dangerot

F. Lafont

Neuville Prudhomme

H. Cotreau

Julius P. Lay

[Illegible]

A. Laurent

Theophile Bossier

P. Combazon

C. F. Flamm

J. Plunket

C. D. Eggleston

Phanor Prudhomme

H. Prudhomme

H. Sibley

V. B. Scheultz

E. B. Cook

James Thompson

D. H. Boullt

M. Bouteige

A. McStea

Thomas Ryom

Charles W. Hertrog

G. W. Look

Thomas Keting

John Colton

C. S. Walmsley

Henry Bartlett

Benjamin W. King

Henry J. Cockrell

John S. Burris

David Walker

G. W. McDonald

V. Sompayrae

Y. Delmenico

Solomon Davy

George Monroe

Simon Cockrell

J. P. Miller

J. Devore

A. H. Pierson

A. J. Gaff